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FROM: Guatemala City

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 288, February 2, 1 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
FEB 3 - 1954

PRIORITY.

Guatemalan police last night and this morning verbally ordered Sidney Gruson, visiting NEW YORK TIMES correspondent and Marshall Bannell, US citizen resident Reuters correspondent to leave country before this evening. They gave no reasons.

I called on Major Humberto Garciagalvez, chief of protocol, this morning asking for confirmation that order emanated from government and pointing out expulsion of correspondents would have strong adverse effect on atmosphere of US-Guatemala relations. Garciagalvez immediately confirmed order for Gruson's expulsion saying tenor of his articles insulting to country and citing particular November 6, 1953 article in which Gruson indicated President Arbenz virtually prisoner of Communists. He said such scorn of chief of state by foreigner was intolerable. He had not heard of Bannell case and promised to look into it but Major Jaime Rosenberg, chief of judicial police, has confirmed to our Consulate that expulsion order issued.

Gruson and Bannell plan to leave noon today for Mexico and El Salvador respectively. Gruson is filing story and will interview correspondents here. Jules Dubois of CHICAGO TRIBUNE, who has not received explusion order, is working out protest by Inter-American Press Association of which press freedom committee he is chairman.

KRIEG

AB:EL/16

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